

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01085 191026Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1085

NODIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PGOV, IS, VT

SUBJECT: DAYAN'S VISIT TO VATICAN

1. DURING LUNCHEON JANUARY 17, AMBASSADOR GARDNER AND SARROS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH VATICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CASAROLI ABOUT FOREIGN MINISTER DAYAN'S VISIT TO THE VATICAN.

2. CASAROLI, WHO HAD SEEN DAYAN PRIVATELY ON JANUARY 1 FOR TWO-HOUR DISCUSSION AND ALSO PARTICIPATED IN DAYAN'S MEETING WITH THE POPE, STATED THAT IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL REVIEW OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS, THE FUTURE OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES WERE DISCUSSED AT LENGTH.

3. CASAROLI CONFIDED TO US THAT DAYAN HAD LEFT HIM WITH TWO "IMPRESSIONS:

--FIRST, THAT HIS METHOD APPEARS MORE SUITABLE TO A MILITARY MAN THAN A DIPLOMAT, ILLUSTRATING IT WITH DAYAN'S POSITION ON THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE: "WE HAVE INVITED PALESTINIANS FROM THE WEST BANK AND GAZA TO JOIN THE NEGOTIATIONS; IF THEY DO NOT, SO BE IT."

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--SECOND, THAT DAYN, AND PERHAPS THE GOI, HAVE NOT APPRECIATED FULLY HOW UNIQUE AND RARE IS THE OPPORTUNITY INITIATED BY THE SADAT VISIT TO JERUSALEM, OBSERVING THAT IF THE GOI DOES NOT GRASP THIS OPPORTUNITY AND SADAT SOMEHOW FALLS, EVERYONE WILL HAVE TO WAIT A VERY LONG TIME FOR ANOTHER SUCH

OPPORTUNITY.

4. WITH RESPECT TO JERSUALEM AND THE HOLY PLACES, THERE WAS NOT MEETING OF MINDS, ALTHOUGH DAYAN GAVE IMPRESSION THAT HOLY SEE POSITION WAS NOT AS "HARD" AS HE EXPECTED. VATICAN, HE SAID, HAD TURNED DOWN ANOTHER OFFER FOR A BILATERAL ACCORD, NOTING THAT THERE COULD NOT BE AN INTERNATIONAL TREATY ON A MATTER OVER WHICH GOI AS AN OCCUPYING POWER HAS NO LEGAL "RIGHT". (SAUDI ARABIA, CASAROLI ADDED PARENTHETICALLY, WANTS VATICAN TO ISSUE STATEMENT FOR RETURN OF OLD JERUSLAME TO ARABS, BUT VATICAN HAS DECLINED TO ISSUE SUCH A STATEMENT.) VATICAN EXPLAINED ITS PROPOSAL FOR "SPECIAL STATUTO" FOR JERUSLAEM AND HOLY PLACES COVERED BY INTERNATIONAL GUARANTEES, SEEING THE SPECIAL STATUE AS AN INSTRUMENT FOR "CONDOMINIUM" OVER, AND AS LIMITING SOVEREIGNTY OF OVERALL CONTROLLING POWER OF JERUSALEM AND THE HOLY PALCES. OLD JERUSALEM, IN VATICAN'S VIEW, IS "A HOLY PLACE" IN ITSELF. GARDNER

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